



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

3001 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-3001

Tel 919-733-7011 • Fax 919-508-0951

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Steven Jordan, Director
Rosemary Weaver, SCFAC Chair
Libby Jones, Vice Chair

August 29, 2011

Dear Steve,

I am formally requesting, at the direction of the SCFAC membership, that the Division of Medical Assistance, the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services and any other DHHS divisions include the SCFAC from the inception of projects that relate to our statutory responsibilities. Too often, we are approached to give our "blessing" on projects or policy changes that have already been decided. The SCFAC needs to be included in the planning stages in order to fulfill the requirements of the statute that governs us.

I can cite two recent examples. A couple of weeks prior to the July 14th meeting, we had requests from two different areas in DHHS (CCNC and MH/SA Block Grant) to be on the agenda for this meeting. Both requests included needing feedback from the SCFAC members. Our policy regarding agenda items did not allow for additional presentations when requested so close to the meeting date. The best we could do was have them briefly present during public comment time which did not allow enough time to fully explain what they needed. Both presenters provided written information to the SCFAC on the day of the meeting and the deadlines for input by our members were July 18th and July 29th. That gave members 4 days to respond for one and 15 days for the other. We do realize that things come up at the last minute, however, both of these items had been in process within DMA and DMH/DD/SAS and the SCFAC could have been included at a much earlier date.

We did discuss this issue during the meeting with Secretary Cansler on June 28th and I know you and your staff are committed to continual collaboration between the Division and the SCFAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary Weaver".

Rosemary Weaver
SCFAC Chair

cc: Mike Watson, Deputy Secretary
Beth Melcher, Assistant Secretary
Dr. Craigan Gray, Director of DMA
Tara Larson, DMA Chief Clinical Operations Officer
DMH Executive Leadership Team

